

# GIVE A CHILD A HOME

WHAT is happening to Britain's children? Many people have been stirred to ask this question after reading recent disturbing reports on cruelty, neglect, inefficient foster homes, and unimaginative methods in dealing with children who have got into trouble. Has not the time come for a nation-wide survey of conditions of child life?

In asking this question the C N bears in mind the years of war which have brought revolutionary changes into the lives of many children. A child lives and thrives best in an atmosphere of security, a stable background of love and care at home. That has been forcibly wrenched away from many thousands of British children, precipitating them into ever-changing conditions of wartime existence.

Britain has lately reshaped its educational programme for the immediate future, and this calls for higher standards of efficiency and training in everyone connected with education. Should there not be a similar reshaping of all the services, both state and voluntary, engaged in child welfare and early training? Ought not the staffs who control children's homes, orphanages, and so on, to be as highly qualified and as adequately paid as those who teach arithmetic and geography?

THE Home Secretary has promised a committee of inquiry into the laws which protect children against cruelty. This will do something towards preventing helpless children falling into the hands of those unfit to look after them. But it is clear that an inquiry of this kind, however useful, will not produce the imaginative overhaul of our methods of looking after the most priceless assets we have.

A nation's greatest wealth lies in its children, and the natural setting for every child is the family. John Masefield, the Poet Laureate, exalts this ideal: *He who gives a child a home, Builds palaces in Kingdom come.*

Where there are homeless children the nation's first responsibility should be to see that homes as natural as possible should be theirs. There are many such homes in this country, where institutions bearing famous names make it their first aim to dismiss the

official atmosphere and provide a real home, where laughter, friendship, and love count more than administrative efficiency and routine.

This calls for a dedication by men and women who have a parental love of children in their hearts. A home for homeless children may be clean, orderly, and well run, and yet miss the lovely virtues of a real home unless there is someone at its heart who is a real homemaker. It may be a Home, but not Home, Sweet Home!

A LARGE number of orphan children will be added to our national responsibilities as a result of the war. Our first duty to them is the provision of happy homes where their spirits are free to expand and their bodies to develop without cringing hardship. They are the nation's wards, and they have an unanswerable claim to a share of all the nation can give, not forgetting lovingkindness.

The right way surely lies in attracting to this supreme service of the children intelligent, devoted, and adequately paid men and women who will respond to the call to make homes for their charges. On this response depends the true happiness of tens of thousands who have to be cared for by public or voluntary bodies.

This twentieth century has been called the "century of the child." Looking back over it the enormous progress made in child understanding, child education, and child welfare, makes a thrilling and encouraging story. But the child is still the most helpless of human beings. In the hands of cruel parents or guardians he cannot defend himself, and in the hands of soulless institutions he must meekly suffer. We may abolish cruelty and threaten the evildoer. A far harder task, however, is to ensure a home for every child, whatever his ancestry, where the heritage of love and care may be his—the only soil in which the flowers of childhood may blossom into full glory.

To build a land which we may rightly boast as one fit for all children to live in needs public enthusiasm and public determination. Let us both as individuals and as a nation give them without stint to a cause which is surely the most precious to our national life.

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## SALUTE TO NEPAL

FIGHTING with the Fourteenth Army in Burma is the Mahindra Dal battalion, as gallant and loyal a band of soldiers as ever fought on Britain's side. This battalion consists entirely of men from Nepal, that kingdom of Northern India on the north-eastern border of which Everest, the highest mountain in the world, thrusts its snowy, untrodden peaks towards the skies.

Mahindra Dal means "the guards of the god of rain."

A correspondent of The Times has told of the excellent work of the battalion in crossing the Chindwin last year, and also in capturing the oil wells at Indaw. Their fighting spirit and determination were beyond praise.

These Nepalese soldiers are all Gurkhas. The men are paid partly in cash and partly by giving them land, on which all

that is produced is theirs as long as they are serving soldiers.

The correspondent reports that Nepal has been severely drained of manpower to assist the cause of Britain and Freedom. Apart from the Mahindra Dal battalion, men from Nepal are serving in the Assam Rifles, the Assam Regiment, the Burma Rifles, and the Gurkha regiments and are doing guard, transport, police, and other military work.

There is a long-standing alliance between Great Britain and Nepal, and it is an alliance which works happily and successfully in all circumstances.

Such a story as this about a State of which little is heard or known deserves the widest publicity; for it shows that Great Britain has staunch friends whose language, customs, and ways of living are very different from her own.

## The Tail of a Little Pig

RUSSIAN skill worked wonders in restoring war-scarred Yalta for the Crimea Conference of Mr Churchill, President Roosevelt, and Marshal Stalin. If all the ruined houses could not be masked with suggestions of prosperity, the meeting-place of the three leaders was rendered beautiful and replete with comfort. The Russians are adepts at this sort of transformation, which, in older days, they used to practise for the deception of their rulers.

Once when Catherine the Great was making a tour of her dominions, her favourite statesman of the time arranged that at each stopping-place a colony of huts should appear, representing settled towns. During the night the huts were moved on, to reappear at the next place of sojourn. The classic of deception of those bad times, however, was an incident in the reign of

Alexander the First, who was our ally against Napoleon.

Alexander once set out to see for himself how his troops were housed and treated. At each barrack establishment he entered he found an excellent dinner set and waiting for the soldiers, with a roast pig as the main dish. This occurred with such regularity as house after house was inspected that at last Prince Volkonski, one of the Tsar's suite, lingering awhile as the company quitted the room, secretly cut off and pocketed the tail of the pig, keeping it for future reference.

On their entering the next building there again was a roast pig, but this time without tail!

"I think," said the prince, "that we have an old friend here." So saying, he produced the tail from his pocket and fitted it to the spot from which it had been sliced.

## A ROSE FOR A QUEEN

MAGDEBURG, great manufacturing centre, and capital of Prussian Saxony, has been virtually destroyed by the blows of our Bomber Command. It is a city centuries old, and it was once the centre of a romance that lives in the byways of history.

After Napoleon's victory at Jena, Magdeburg was annexed by the conqueror to the kingdom of Westphalia. In vain did the wavering Frederick William the Third of Prussia, when the conference of Tilsit was held, seek to regain it from his victor. So Louise, his brave and beautiful queen, was summoned to make an appeal.

Napoleon was impressed by her beauty and gifts, and afterwards described the scene as she made her plea for the return of the city. "Sire! Justice! Justice!

Magdeburg!" she cried in tragic tones. Her urgency embarrassed Napoleon, who, in order to stop her, begged her to sit down, knowing that "nothing else is so likely to cut short such a scene, for when one is seated its continuance turns tragedy into comedy." He paid her compliments to divert her from her object, and later, taking a rose from a vase, offered it to her. "Yes," she cried, "but with Magdeburg!"

Napoleon was ready: "Eh, madame," he said, "it is I who am offering the rose to you, not you to me."

So the queen went sadly away, with neither rose nor city, to shrink sobbing into her place as Talleyrand helped her into her carriage. Magdeburg was not restored to Prussia until 1814, four years after Louise's death.



## An African League

These happy African soldiers, from six different tribes, are part of an army unit that tours East Africa to show the people how their men train to fight the Japanese.



## WAR RECOILS ON THE MAKERS OF WAR

THE world war, begun with such rapid sweeps into the lands of their neighbours, far and near, by the Axis Powers, has now become a struggle for existence in the homeland of the one and in the home waters of the other.

While the Russians have not only won back all their territory but are menacing the very heart of the Reich, their Allies on the Western Front are now firmly established on German soil, and in the Far East have carried the war to Pacific Islands which have long been recognised as under the Flag of the Rising Sun.

In a characteristic message to his troops Field-Marshal Montgomery has recently described the German war as being in its final stage. The "last and final round" in which "we want, and will go for, the knock-out blow" had, he declared, been reached, and there must be no relaxation until that blow in this "all-out contest" had been delivered.

In the view of our wary yet confident Field-Marshal we cannot guess how long the Nazis will withstand the shattering blows now being directed at their heart, nor can we estimate how long their equally ferocious allies will fight back against the well-organised advances of the Allies in Burma and the Pacific.

In Burma the 14th Army is steadily recovering lost territory, with the result that the Japanese problem on the continent of Asia is rapidly becoming one of defence rather than offence.

The Japanese Navy have failed to save the Philippines from rapid and successful invasion. General MacArthur is back again to thank the Filipinos who have realised what Japanese Co-Prosperity actually meant and have once again been loyal supporters of their Liberators.

The American success in these islands has been largely due to

the transfer of their base from Pearl Harbour to Guam Island in the Marianas—a saving of some 2500 miles.

Guam lies less than 1400 miles from Tokyo, and in between are islands which Japan has fortified, but not in sufficient strength to resist for long. These islands are the Volcanos and the Bonins.

Iwojima, or Sulphur Island, the appropriately named central island of the Volcanos, has been stormed by Admiral Spruance, and some 300 miles to the north, midway between it and Tokyo, an armada under Admiral Mitscher has warded off air attacks from Japan's mainland while striking heavily at that mainland itself.

This unopposed entry in force into the home waters of a maritime power is significant indeed. The Japanese mainland has for months been raided by land-based B29 Super-Fortresses, which sought to cripple Japanese aircraft production. But now the Americans have been able to mount an even more effective and sustained attack by over 1000 light and medium bombers from aircraft carriers.

Not only war-factories, but airfields, military stations, and transport centres have become targets—a form of attack which in modern warfare is usually a prelude to land invasion.

The arrival of the American Navy in Japanese waters is certainly a direct challenge to Japan's modern fleet. If Japan's military rulers dare not accept this decisive gage they will make it evident to their distracted people that the end of their vainglorious ascendancy is near.

## The British Family in Conference

MOST significant and important is an Empire Conference now sitting in London, the third British Commonwealth Relations Conference, organised by the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House.

To London have come representatives of the four Dominions of Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, and of India, with "observers" from Southern Rhodesia and Burma, and Lord Hailey, a distinguished Empire-builder, representing the United Kingdom.

The conference has no official authority behind it, but only public opinion. Its object is frank interchange of views, and that is all to the good. Canada, as a power in the American Continent, has very special responsibilities of her own. Australia and New Zealand, as Pacific powers with mandated areas of their own, are no less anxious than Canada for future co-operation with the U.S.A. as well as Britain. South Africa has, among other important business in life, special racial problems. India, not yet a Dominion, looks for independence for her teeming millions; and each of the others at the conference has its own special problems.

In opening the conference, which is sitting until March 3, Viscount Cecil of Chelwood said

that the cruellest war waged for centuries has left, inevitably, mountains of hatred, and on hatred nothing can be built. He went on to say that it would be on the courage of our peoples that we must rely to overcome the great floods of human suffering that still remain in the world.

The most powerful plan for preventing war, said Lord Cecil, is the creation of an organisation of peaceful nations who will bind themselves to prevent and arrest aggression from whatever source it comes.

"The old days in which each nation could live its own life irrespective of what other nations might do are gone for ever," he said. "We are now all one community, and every day we get nearer to one another. If by our example we can induce all other nations to agree, then the international organisation of peace can be made successful."

If Nationalism, to which Lord Cecil referred, is permitted to override the interests of the world as a whole, the result will be chaos and, ultimately, another war. The Charter of the United Nations to be discussed at San Francisco must be made a living reality; and it is for the British Commonwealth of Nations, once more, to give the world a statesmanlike lead.

## State Allowances For Children

THE Government has published its Family Allowances Bill, foreshadowed in its White Paper on Social Security.

The Bill proposes an allowance of 5s a week for every child in a family except the first. This will be in addition to school milk, free meals, and so on. Thus the family allowance will be worth about ten shillings a week for each child. The payments will not begin until after the war; they will be paid through the Post Office.

Boys and girls will be eligible up to July 31 following their 16th birthday, if attending full-time instruction at school.

The cost to the State will be about £57,000,000 a year in the allowances alone, and it is estimated that no less than 4,400,000 children will benefit.

## LONDON HONEY

BEEHIVES kept on the roof of a London newspaper office were well provided with honey, obviously collected by the bees during long flights. Apiarists have recently been trying to find out where the bees get their honey from in London, and a writer in Nature says that the bulk of the honey is derived from lime trees and privet hedges. In some years, however, the bees get honey from the flowers of horse chestnuts, sycamores, and maples.

A curious thing about honey which has been largely culled from privet hedges is the cat-like odour of the product. One London beekeeper during last season was unable to get rid of a quantity of this honey though it was in every way excellent, and thoroughly wholesome.

## Per Ardua ad Astra

A SCHOLARLY man who has lived up to the motto of the R.A.F. is Acting Wing-Commander M. T. Judd. While graduating at Oxford in philosophy, politics, and economics he was also learning to fly.

He joined the R.A.F. won the D.F.C. and the A.F.C., and was promoted to acting wing-commander. Now he has been awarded the D.S.O. for "brilliant work."

During the fighting in Libya his squadron encountered a force of Junkers 52 escorted by Messerschmitts, and shot down 15 of them. Wing-Commander Judd himself destroying two.

The character of such young men is Britain's best hope for the future.

## RED ARMY HERO

GENERAL CHERNIAKHOVSKY, youngest of Russia's army group commanders, has died from wounds received in battle. Ivan Danilovitch Cherniakovsky, son of a Ukraine railwayman, was only 36, but he had been in command of the brilliant operations in the north of East Prussia, including the encirclement of Königsberg.

Before that he had played a leading part in the liberation of the Baltic countries, and a monument to him will be set up in Vilna, where his body now lies.

## Look & Listen Before You Cross the Road

## LITTLE NEWS REELS

THE first Negro contingent of the U.S. Women's Army Corps has arrived in Britain.

26 Free French stamps were sold for £130 recently. They were 1942 stamps overprinted on 1938-40 issues.

The ruins of Cassino are to be preserved as a war shrine.

MARSHAL TITO has invited General Leon Fox, Field Director of the U.S. Typhus Control Commission, to begin a large-scale health offensive in Yugoslavia. General Fox prevented a serious outbreak of typhus in Naples.

The American Cyanamid Company has announced that it has discovered a method of making penicillin in pills which will take place of injection.

Over 1000 inventions and scientific works have been submitted in Russia for the Stalin prize.

THE Prime Minister was given the Freedom of Athens when he visited the city on his return from the Crimea Conference. A statue of him is to be erected.

Britain is the country that Americans most want to visit after the war, according to a survey recently made.

## Liberation News Reel

SEVEN THOUSAND prisoners of the Japanese were freed when the Americans captured Manila in the Philippines.

In 24 hours recently the R.A.F. and U.S. Air Force flew over 10,000 sorties. Germany's record over Britain was 500 sorties.

Huge German underground stores of ammunition and underground workshops for making munitions have been discovered intact by the Russians on the Eastern front.

The Royal Scots Greys, one of the last cavalry regiments to use horses, has been fighting in tanks on the Western front since D Day.

Wing-Commander Alfred K. Gatward, D.S.C., D.F.C. and Bar, the pilot who in 1942 flew alone down the Champs Elysees in Paris at third-storey level and fired through the windows of the Nazi headquarters, has been appointed to the command of the R.A.F. Coastal Command anti-shiping wing based in Belgium.

In the British offensive on the Western Front our troops advanced in Buffalo and Duck amphibious vehicles across the floods created by the Germans. The men called themselves the "Inland Navy."

## Youth News Reel

By repeatedly filling a kettle and a saucepan with water until other help arrived, Scouts Henry and Terence Tove, aged 12 and 10, prevented the spread of a fire and helped a rescue-party leader to save a woman trapped by debris.

The Boy Scouts of America have recently celebrated their 35th anniversary with a special programme of Scouting activities.

Already Boy Scout Groups and training camps have been established in liberated Poland; the boys are taking a big part in reconstruction work.

DR MEREDITH ROSS, of Melbourne, who joined the Girl Guides when she was 13, is shortly taking overseas a Guide International Service team with a fully equipped mobile hospital.

The Scottish Planning Bill, which has passed its second reading, will deal, among other matters, with Glasgow's slums, some of the worst in Britain.

London police horses are to have refresher courses prior to resuming their duties after the war. Their training consists largely in becoming used to the noises and movements of crowds.

Sweden has not renewed her trade agreement with Germany, which expired at the beginning of this year, and so has ceased to trade with the Nazis.

The Archbishop of York, Dr Cyril Garbett, recently spent a week-end with the Home Fleet. He travelled by air.

HUNDREDS of French artists have given original works to be first exhibited and then sold in aid of London children who have been bombed out of their homes.

The only Negro general in the U.S. Army is Brigadier-General Benjamin O. Davis, who is also the first Negro to be awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. General Davis has been in the U.S. Army for 40 years and rose from the ranks.

The 19th Division in Burma, known as the Dagger Division because of its badge, consists of British and Indian soldiers. It recently marched 400 miles and fought 18 battles against the Japanese in less than two months.

BETWEEN D Day and August 31 last year, London Docks sent to France 311,000 troops, 123,000 vehicles, and 666,000 tons of stores and ammunition.

Scottish troops attacked the Germans across the river Niers a short while ago to the music of their bagpipes.

The Spitfire remains one of the world's fastest fighters, with a top speed of 450 miles per hour and a tactical range of 300 miles.

For four years, unsuspected by the Nazis during their occupation of France, the Belgian crown jewels lay hidden in a French bank at Béziers. Among the jewels are gold bars and a jewel-covered crown.

British troops fighting in Burma agreed to forgo supplies of cigarettes in order that the transport space thus saved might be used for bringing more ammunition.

The Warsaw radio station has reopened.

The 6th Cardiff Boys Brigade is probably the most cosmopolitan company in the B.B., having in its ranks Arabs and Anglo-Saxons, Ceylonese and Maltese, Lascars and Malaysians, Somalis and Sierra Leoneans, and Welshmen and West Indians.

By making models of threshing tackle with his Meccano set and showing the models to visitors, Alan J. Standfast, aged 12, of Leigh Farm near Chipping Sodbury, has collected £3 5s for the Red Cross Agriculture Fund.

At one time during the Battle of Caen the only water available to French civilians was from three wells, and these were frequently under shell fire. News has just reached Scout HQ that local Scouts took all the risk of drawing water from the wells.





## Bringing the Mail Aboard

A welcome sight for the ship's company of H M S Nelson. The battleship had not long returned from the Mediterranean when this picture was taken.

## A RIVER BLOWN DRY

THE vagaries of the weather have severely affected South America. A tremendous gale recently drove the waters of the River Plate towards the sea, with the result that Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, was without water for drinking or washing. Furthermore, the port of Buenos Aires was at a standstill because the ships were lying on dry ground.

## THE BUSY WEAVERS

SINCE 1940 a group of good folk of Keighley in Yorkshire have been making a unique effort on behalf of the Red Cross.

Over 25,000 yards of fabric have been produced by voluntary labour and sent as gifts to Yorkshire Red Cross hospital-supplies depots. The material has been made up at the depots into shirts, pyjamas, stretcher-bags, rugs and blankets for beds, and so on.

The staff and students of Keighley Technical College prepared the warps and wefts for the looms, and the weaving was done in the college by Keighley women weavers, 57 in all, over the four years.

## PENICILLIN FOR PLANTS

THERE seems to be no end to the uses of penicillin, for recent experiments with this wonder drug by American scientists reveal that penicillin will cure plant diseases. Even the dreaded crown gall, known as the cancer of the plant world, yields before its magical healing powers. The germs are destroyed after penicillin has been painted on the infected part, and the growth of the plant remains uninjured.

## Men of Arnhem Exhibition

THE epic story of the men of Arnhem, as revealed by the Army Film Photographic Unit, is the subject of an exhibition at Ilford Galleries, High Holborn, London. There are other interesting exhibits, such as the various badges worn by the airborne troops and the Press dispatches written at Arnhem.

In front of Major-General Urquhart, commander of the Arnhem heroes, when he opened the exhibition, was his personal pennant, which had had a

## DEHYDRATED WINDOWS

GLASS for windows is in short supply these days, as many blitzed householders know to their cost, but after the war a new kind of window glass will probably be available here.

The new glass is called Thermopane and consists of two sheets of glass separated by a dehydrated air space. Windows of this sort keep a house warm in winter and cool in summer. They will be used to best advantage in air-conditioned houses, where it is not necessary to open the windows for ventilation.

## REBUILDING WARSAW

THE new Warsaw which is now being built will be even more beautiful and greater than ever before. This was revealed recently by the president of the Warsaw Reconstruction Committee, and he also said that the new city was to have an underground railway.

## SKILLED REFUGEES

THERE are at present in Britain 49,000 refugees from occupied countries, and many brought with them new industries which are thriving in this country. In fact, about 450 factories are being managed by skilful refugees, and are producing, among other things, chemicals, electrical apparatus, metal furniture, paper board, paint, leather goods, and clothing.

New methods now being taught to British workers are likely to have a marked effect on our future export trade.

charmed life in that inferno of fire and fury. On the last afternoon before the remnants of the division left Arnhem, this pennant was knocked down by blast, but was recovered that night by the general's batman.

The exhibition will remain open until the middle of March, after which it will tour the provinces.

Money taken at the exhibition will benefit the Airborne Forces' Security Fund and the Books for the Forces scheme.

## RESOURCE

AT the height of a recent blizzard in Glamorganshire a small telegraph-boy was given an important telegram to deliver to an outlying part of the Clyne Valley. After going some distance he found the road blocked by a huge snowdrift, and he realised it was impossible for him to reach his destination on foot. But he knew, too, that the telegram was urgent and must be delivered somehow.

He did some hard thinking, and remembered that a train was due shortly to pass the house to which the telegram was addressed. He wrapped the telegram round a stone, tied it to a long rope, and gave it to the engine-driver of the train.

When the train approached the address the driver gave several blasts on his whistle, which attracted the attention of the people in the house. Then he flung the stone with the attached telegram across the high snowdrifts. The stone and envelope disappeared into the snow, as the boy had imagined it would, but the rope marked its position and the addressee got his telegram.

## GOOD FRIENDS

CHESHIRE police have a special right to the title, Children's Friends.

The County Constabulary have organised a system of protection for children, each constable adopting one particular school. There are 340 schools coming under the scheme, and the policeman, having chosen his school, makes it his special interest. He gives lectures, demonstrations, answers questions, and guards the movement of children going to and coming from school.

Boys and girls attending these schools form safety committees, and have already put forward many practical suggestions which have been adopted.

## SCHOOLBOOKS FOR YOUNG GERMANY

WHEN Hitler came to power in 1933 he ordered all the schoolbooks then in use to be destroyed and issued new ones glorifying militarism and Nazi racial theories. But a German schoolmaster in a village near the Western frontier hid away six of the former books, and a little while ago these pre-Hitler primers of reading, drawing, arithmetic, and history were found by an Allied officer after his men had captured the shattered village.

The six primers have been brought to Britain and thousands of copies of them are being made for use in German schools after the war. The original copies were printed between 1925 and 1929. The reading books contain beautifully illustrated fairy stories and simple poems. The history is presented in a non-Nazi way.

It was indeed a lucky find, for it will help the postwar education of German children in the light of civilised and democratic ideals to begin at once after Victory.

## APL-47

THE APL-47 is one of the strangest ships ever built in the docks at Seattle in America.

It is 260 feet long and contains barracks, a hotel, recreation rooms, and a hospital, all for the use of submarine crews. APL-47 can accommodate 700 men and, together with repair barges, it is towed as one of a train of ships, acting as a floating base for US submarines.

## The Mules and the Mountains

THAT useful yet stubborn little beast of burden, the mule, of which more than one wartime story has been told, has stepped into the news again.

When climbing up 8000-foot mountain-sides west of the Burma road, the troops of an American task force had to cling to the tails of their mules to make headway and to prevent themselves from slipping back.

The country through which these gallant soldiers were moving is most hazardous. The

slippery, steep, and winding trails, and the precipices and great ravines are full of mortal danger. The least slip and all may be over. But on this occasion the mules were there to help. In this war, at least, they appear to have shown that they deserve better than Rudyard Kipling's rating of them when he wrote:

*The 'orse 'e knows above a bit, the bullock's but a fool, The elephant's a gentleman, the battery-mule's a mule.*

## THE COCOA COUNTRY

A FAMOUS chocolate-making firm in Britain has given to the Gold Coast two community centres, costing £2000 each. This firm has made other gifts in the past, especially scholarships to train African doctors, teachers, and farmers. Its friendly interest in the Gold Coast is because this Colony is the source of most of the firm's chocolate ingredients.

Hundreds of thousands of Gold Coast peasant farmers grow the cacao tree whose fruit goes to make chocolate and cocoa drinks in Britain, America, and elsewhere.

## A BUMPER CATCH

BOYS who dangle their lines in a river or stream for hours without getting so much as a bite, let alone a decent catch, will envy Mr R. Burn and Mr T. Mallinson who, when fishing in the River Stour at Wimborne, Dorset, recently caught 51 pike in two hours, the heaviest fish weighing 20lbs.

## MEMORIAL TO OUR FALLEN

THE subject of war memorials was discussed a few days ago in the House of Lords. Lord Chatfield, who has already done much good work in this connection, stressed the need for war memorials of a high standard of social and cultural value. He pressed for memorials which would not only honour the dead but help those who survive. He suggested gardens, with beautiful trees and shrubs, and a shrine where services could be held and tributes to the dead could be placed.

Among other speakers, Archbishop Lord Lang pressed for gardens of memory; Viscount Esher suggested a new bridge at Charing Cross; and the Bishop of Chichester another college like All Souls College, Oxford.

## PALESTINE PIONEER

A LADY who founded homes in Palestine for 12,000 refugee Jewish children from Europe has just died in Jerusalem at the age of 84. She was Madame Henrietta Szold, who established the Palestine health system, and also helped to found hospitals. Her Boston University degree was the first ever to be conferred by wireless. She was given it for her translations of Hebrew literary works.



## Young Holland

Some of the 500 Dutch refugee children from the war zone are seen here in high spirits on their recent arrival in Britain. They have gone to a hostel near Coventry with their own teachers, doctors, and nurses.



March 3, 1945

The Children's Ne



### Sky Camera

Nazi troop movements will soon be revealed by the long lens of this aerial camera which the two aircraftmen on a Dutch airfield are fitting to a Mustang photographic reconnaissance aircraft.

## A CASE FOR BETTER REMAND HOMES

As a result of public criticism of an LCC remand home at Marlesford Lodge, Hammer-smith, made by London magistrates, the Home Office appointed Mr. G. Russell Vick, KC, and Miss Myra Curtis as a committee to inquire into conditions in these homes. The committee's report has been recently published.

Mr Vick and Miss Curtis recommend that children under eight should be removed from remand homes and accommodated in private houses. Children who are subsequently to go to an approved school should be transferred to it from the remand home as quickly as possible. A special remand home should be provided for children under preventive detention.

Boys and girls from the age of eight onwards should be accommodated in separate homes, the report recommends, and also that children between eight and twelve should be kept apart from the others.

## The Warbling Lute

ALLIED troops quartered in Italian towns have one advantage over those on other Fronts. They can hear good music in the cradle of opera and the birthplace of some of the greatest singers the world has known. It has indeed been given as an extra plea for a national opera house in London that their Italian experience will have created an abiding love for grand opera in the hearts of thousands of our men.

Italy, too, long led Europe in the making of the finest musical instruments, notably violins.

Englishmen, however, may look Italians in the face in the matter of one beautiful instru-

The report emphasises that homes should be equipped so that the children may be fully occupied in work and play, and it stresses the importance of an adequate staff. Owing to war-time conditions remand homes are understaffed and those in charge have to work under difficult circumstances.

The committee paid a tribute to the acting superintendent of the Marlesford Lodge home, and said she has a very deep and human understanding of the girls in her care; but they said the magistrates had "incurred responsibility for a type of publicity" which caused distress to many conscientious workers in the homes. They also declared that the work of the council's officers "had that remoteness of interest and sluggishness of operation which is unfortunately characteristic of large organisations."

This searching inquiry should lead to an improvement in the welfare of children in remand homes all over the country.

ment. During the 16th century musical people in Italy turned to England for the finest lutes! The father of the immortal Galileo, who wrote much on music, left it on record that in his day better lutes were made in England than in any other part of Europe. He was an expert performer on the lute, but was eclipsed in turn by his illustrious son, a musician whose gifts appealed to his friend, Milton. Galileo, blind, still played the lute; Milton, too, when blindness came upon him, would have found solace in an instrument which, with Shakespeare, he ascribed to the divine Apollo himself.

## Light and Power in Wartime Britain

THE tall pylons that carry the cables of our grid system for distributing electric power are as familiar a sight in our fields as telegraph posts or railway signals. We scarcely notice their presence, yet they and the rest of the grid system have been of enormous service to us in providing much of the power and light required in war factories.

The report of the Central Electricity Board which controls the grid system has just been published for the years 1940 to 1943. It shows the war has called for a considerable expansion of the system. In the four years, 670 more miles of lines were put up and 37 more switching and transforming stations were established, so that by the end of 1943 the grid system had in use 5099 miles of electric transmission lines, 344 sub-stations, and 142 generating stations.

It has all been used to the utmost capacity to supply the demands of our war factories for electric light and power. Black-out restrictions and the longer hours of work in the factories mean the use of more electricity, and so does summertime in winter which necessitates people working during the early morning hours of darkness. In consequence the 1939 output of 26,400,000,000 units rose to 37,000,000,000 units in 1943, an increase of over 40 per cent; and the Board's receipts rose from £37,899,128 in 1939 to £68,299,560 in 1943.

The grid's greater output was accomplished in the face of difficulties. There was a shortage of workers to carry on repair work at the stations and on the lines. The coal sent to work the generating stations was not always of high quality, and as a result the efficiency of generating machinery was somewhat reduced. For these reasons generating plant often broke down. The amount of plant out of use in the winter of 1943-44 was 12.6 per cent greater than the average before the war.

Fortunately our grid system has sustained little damage through bombing and, in spite of the wartime difficulties of the men controlling it, the vital work of keeping the nation supplied with electricity has been carried on.

## CHINA HELPED BY ALLIED VICTORIES

AN American general, Albert C. Wedemeyer, Commander of the US forces in China, has described how Allied successes in the Philippines and Burma have helped the Chinese armies.

The Japanese in China had evidently intended to launch big attacks against strategic Chinese towns, but now that American forces have defeated them in the island of Luzon, in which stands Manila, the enemy have had to make drastic alterations in their plans, and in China they have abandoned offensive for defensive tactics, and have been feverishly constructing defensive positions. Also, the general said, the Japanese anticipate bombing attacks on them in China from planes from the Philippines.

Thus victories on two of the United Nations' many fronts have a direct influence on the enemy in other theatres of war.

## EDITOR'S TABLE

### THIS IS HISTORY

SHAKESPEARE wrote that "heaviness foreruns the good event." Well, we have had our heaviness, and now the good event has taken place.

The decisions of those great men who sat round a table at Yalta in the Crimea and settled their "Plans for Final Defeat of the Common Enemy" are, indeed a beacon light of history; and not less, and perhaps more, in mighty significance will be the meeting at San Francisco on April 25, when the Charter of the United Nations, proposed at Dumbarton Oaks, is to be prepared.

It is difficult for us to realise that we are living in times when events so momentous for mankind are actually taking place. We may be justly proud in the thought that we are witnessing them.

### Bigger Grants For the Universities

THE Government have decided to make very substantial additional grants in aid of universities, colleges, medical schools, and teaching hospitals.

Next year their total grants will be nearly six million pounds, over double the present grant.

The universities are also to receive considerable financial aid from private sources, notably the Shell-Mex Group of Oil Companies (for Cambridge), the Nuffield Foundation, and Imperial Chemical Industries.

Thus the universities should be able to accommodate more students to help to fill the gaps caused by the war in the ranks of university-trained men.

There is little that can be done without money; but this is not the only requisite. Energy, enterprise, broad vision, and a business-like approach to the tasks ahead will also be called for.

## CARRY ON

### MERE NOISE

BECAUSE half a dozen grasshoppers under a fern make the field ring with their importunate chink, while thousands of great cattle, reposed beneath the shadow of the British oak, chew the cud and are silent, pray do not imagine that those who make the noise are the only inhabitants of the field; that they are many in number; or that, after all, they are other than the little, shrivelled, meagre, hopping, though loud and troublesome, insects of the hour.

Edmund Burke

### God's Work

I AM glad to think I am not bound to make the wrong go right, But only to discover and to do, With cheerful heart, the work that God appoints. Jean Ingelow

## THE CHEM

ON his way from school the other afternoon Jack caught up with an elderly friend. He was walking rather slowly, it being his first time out after an illness. "How are you, sir?" asked Jack. "Nicely, thank you," came the reply, "I'll be all right when I have taken my swiftening powder."

When they met a week later Jack thought the old man was more sprightly. "Your swiftening powder has done you good," he commented. "Aye," said his old friend, smiling.

A few days later Jack himself felt positively dull. So to the chemist Jack went, and asked for a swiftening powder.

The chemist looked at him,

## Money Wi

SCIENTIFIC agricultural research in Canada has many times repaid the money spent on it by the Dominion Government. Scientists have developed a kind of wheat that resists a minute parasitic organism, known as "rust," and thus far more wheat per acre is produced.

It is estimated that from 1939 to 1943 farmers in Manitoba and Eastern Saskatchewan have obtained an average annual increase

## Under the E

SOME plants are more vigorous than others. But they all stay in their beds.

A LAND GIRL says she finds it difficult to manage a horse. But she will get on.

EVERY boy should have an absorbing hobby. How about collecting blotting paper?

PUT your sweets in a tin, recommends a writer. We know a better place.

PETER I WANTS KNO



If schoolb a fig for

## The Grandeur

It is interesting to contemplate a tangled bank, clothed with many plants of many kinds, with birds singing on the bushes, with various insects flitting about, and with worms crawling through the damp earth; and to reflect that these elaborately constructed forms, so different from each other, and dependent upon each other in so complex a manner, have all been produced by laws acting around us.

These laws, taken in the larger sense, are growth with reproduction inheritance, which is almost implied by reproduction; variability from the indirect and direct action of the conditions of life, and from use and disuse; a ratio of increase so high as to lead to a struggle for life, and, as a consequence, to natural selection, entailing divergence of character and the extinction of less improved forms. Thus, from the war of Nature,



## 1ST KNEW

inquiringly Jack thought, and then said, "Certainly," and went behind a little glass partition. Later, the chemist handed Jack a small wafer-like envelope. At home, and alone, Jack opened the envelope, and unfolded the paper inside; but there was no powder. Instead there was some writing on the paper. It read, "Don't scowl, smile; don't crouch, reach; don't shuffle, walk; don't wail, work; don't give in, get up." Then, underlined, was written, "This prescription should be taken seriously every hour of the day."

Jack thought this was a joke at first. But now he takes his powder seriously and regularly, and it is making a man of him.

## Sely Spent

7,242,000 dollars from grow-rust-resistant wheat. This more than 13 times the money spent on developing this loved grain.

The Canadian taxpayer himself who provided the money for research, cannot but benefit the increased prosperity of farmers. There are few better examples of the wise policy of government spending money on scientific research.

## or's Table

OPENING often makes the inexperienced gardener's back ache, and his pains.

**K** GIVE your dress a dash of colour. But don't let it run in the wash.

**A** CERTAIN general has been likened to a hard scrubbing brush. Usually in hot water?

**A** MAN says that in Canada he was struck by the huge imports of British cattle. He should have got out of the way.

## f Evolution

the most exalted object which we are capable of conceiving, the Production of the Higher Animals, directly follows.

There is grandeur in this view of Life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed by the Creator into a few forms, or into one; and that, while this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved. *Charles Darwin.*

## True Sincerity

SINCERITY is to speak as we think, to do as we pretend and profess, to perform and make good what we promise, and really to be what we would seem and appear to be. It creates confidence in those we have to deal with, and saves the labour of many inquiries. *John Tillotson*

## A Word About Hobbies

A CORRESPONDENT in a national newspaper pleads that children should be permitted, even encouraged, to devote some of their leisure to games and pursuits which they devise for themselves, and not to use up all their spare hours playing organised cricket, football, and other games.

We support this view. We learn nothing better than what we learn for ourselves. Boys and girls who devote almost every minute of their spare time to the playing of team games, excellent though these are, and who have no opportunity for self-chosen hobbies, miss not only a good deal of pleasure but a considerable amount of self-education which is most helpful in after years. It does not matter much what the hobby is—carpentry, stamp-collecting, the study of wild life, or what you will—provided that it is something which a boy or girl likes. Thus are initiative and individuality developed.

## From Little Acorns...

MANY Servicemen will be starting businesses of their own when they return to civilian life, aided by special Government grants up to £150.

From such small beginnings in the past have grown many firms that are prosperous and powerful today, and the opportunities for success will be as great as ever in the new world after the war.

Not all who apply for the new Government grants, however, will be well versed in business affairs, and it is good to know that a committee has been set up under Sir Frank Newson-Smith, a former Lord Mayor of London, to run throughout the land an advisory service to protect the unwary against dishonest dealers.

## JUST AN IDEA

Boredom was brought into the world by sloth.

## O, SHED NO TEAR

SHED no tear! O, shed no tear! The flower will bloom another year.

Weep no more! O, weep no more!

Young buds sleep in the root's white core.

Dry your eyes! O, dry your eyes!

For I was taught in Paradise To ease my breast of melodies—Shed no tear.

Overhead! look overhead! 'Mong the blossoms white and red—

Look up, look up. I flutter now On this flush pomegranate bough.

See me! tis this silvery bell Ever cures the good man's ill.

Shed no tear! O, shed no tear! The flowers will bloom another year.

Adieu, adieu—I fly, adieu, I vanish in the heaven's blue—Adieu, adieu!

*John Keats*

## Golden Lamps Again

ORANGES are news in Bermuda, just as they are here, but for a different reason. They were in Bermuda even before the first British settlers, for a seventeenth-century poet says the first colonists thanked God because

*He hangs in shade the orange bright  
Like golden lamps in a green night.*

But since then, because of neglect and the attacks of pests and diseases, the oranges of Bermuda have grown fewer and fewer. At the beginning of this century the number of oranges being grown was less than a hundredth part of the number produced only 20 years before.

Something needed to be done. Oranges would provide an extra, healthy foodstuff for the Bermudan diet. Besides, they would be an attraction to tourists. Visitors from America feel lost without their orange juice for breakfast. So, in 1943, the Bermudan Department of Agriculture sent an expert to study modern methods of fruit-growing in the orchards of Florida, in the U.S. and the British colony of the Bahamas.

This agricultural expert has brought back hopeful news and practical advice to Bermuda. Over a hundred kinds of fruit can profitably be grown in the islands, and he advises that oranges, lemons, and other citrus fruits should be given special attention. Success will come through modern methods of crossing to produce better strains, and the protection of trees against insect pests and diseases by spraying and other means.

In time, the oranges should be back in Bermuda as settled inhabitants, just as they are beginning to come back to Britain as regular visitors.

## AMERICAN HELP FOR RUSSIA

IN their magnificent offensive the Russians are being greatly helped by the millions of tons of American-made ammunition and equipment supplied under Lend-Lease arrangements, and Russia has gratefully acknowledged her Ally's help.

The rapid and far advance of the Russian armies has created the big problem of keeping the forward troops supplied, and here America has helped by sending, since Lend-Lease began and up to December 1, 1944, 331,000 motor vehicles, including 45,000 jeeps, and 29,000 motor-cycles.

Part of the Russians' supply problem was the destruction by the retreating Nazis of railway rolling stock. Their factories and mills were unable to make up the losses, but from the USA there have come 1049 locomotives, 8264 goods trucks, and 11,000 tons of wheels and axles. For the relaying of Russian railways America also sent 478,000 tons of rails.

Other munitions delivered under Lend-Lease include 12,200 aeroplanes, 135,000 machine-guns, 294,000 tons of explosives, 6000 tanks, 1800 self-propelled guns, and 8200 guns of various sizes.

It has all helped to speed the Russians' march on Berlin.

## OXFORD'S TREASURY OF KNOWLEDGE

THROUGHOUT the world of learning the Bodleian Library, Oxford University's most magnificent possession, is famous and honoured, and with it Sir Thomas Bodley, its founder, the 400th anniversary of whose birth falls on March 2.

The son of a distinguished Devon family, Thomas Bodley spent part of his boyhood at Geneva, whither his Protestant father was driven by religious persecution under Queen Mary. With the accession of Elizabeth, Thomas returned to England, and after a brilliant career at Oxford he travelled for four years in Europe, adding modern languages to the classics, of which he was already master. There followed strikingly successful diplomatic service in Denmark, France, and Holland, ended by his wearying of Court intrigue that debarred him from the commanding position at home that wise men deemed his due.

As a solace he set himself to creating a great library for his old University, to replace Duke Humphrey's Library, from which almost every volume had been stolen. The building, with its rotten timbers, needed reconstructing. It was made new. Bodley gave books of his own; he begged from friends far and near; he sent an expert to buy books in England; and he engaged as librarian Thomas James, a young scholar, who made the audacious suggestion that Bodley should obtain copies of all books published in the United Kingdom. The advice was followed, and to this day the Bodleian, with its million volumes and more than 30,000

precious manuscripts, is one of the few institutions legally entitled to a free copy of every book issued in our land.

No wonder that the Bodleian has grown and grown—both underground and on the surface—and has become recognised as one of the world's great treasuries of knowledge.

Bodley, however, expected no results so magnificent. He dreamed only of a library from which the books would never leave. The little books, tied with string, were placed behind wire gratings, the larger were chained to shelves or desks. Of the first 2000 books only 36 were English. It was the age of Shakespeare, Jonson, Beaumont, and Fletcher, and others of the immortal company; but Bodley doubted the permanence of their works, and was chary about all English literature, trusting only to works in the dead tongues. But he saw his collection grow to 6000 volumes, and the firm foundation of the first public national institution of its kind in Europe.

Sir Thomas Bodley died in 1613, and, endowing his library with his all, left it to the University, which now directs and finances it. Its title, the Bodleian, honours for ever the name of its founder, who established an institution that has long made Oxford a Mecca of scholars from every corner of the globe.

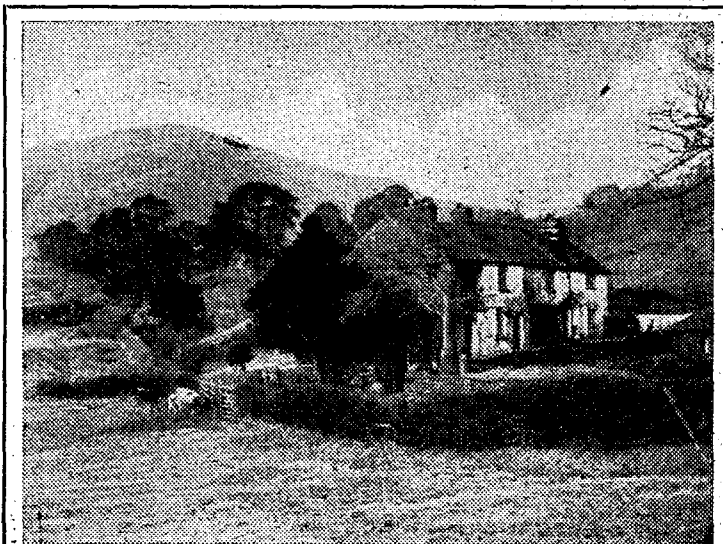
## War Cannot Kill the Music We Love

AS the war intensifies, we like to think of good and great things which war cannot kill, things which have satisfied the hunger of the human soul in the midst of destruction. Music... was there ever a time when we loved music more?

Back from Belgium on leave, a young Australian airman told his English friends, so we hear, that "over there" the music he loved was as delightful and plentiful as it is over here. In Brussels he went to a performance of Faust at the Opera House, the best he had ever seen. He praised Ensa

for dozens of admirable shows, and our great orchestras for their welcome visits. To him it was difficult to know who were most to be thanked, the Belgians or the British, for the glorious music which gave him so many happy hours between duties.

War factories here at home, military camps, provincial centres like the Bedford Corn Exchange, where the BBC has presented so many grand performances, have also enjoyed for a long time the inestimable benefits of good music to cheer the heart.



THIS ENGLAND

Boon Crag Farm, Monk Coniston, which now belongs to the nation



## An American's Design For Living

*John D. Rockefeller was a very wealthy American, and also a great benefactor. His gifts, grants, and endowments in the interests of science and research have been of enormous benefit to mankind and have been practically world-wide. His son, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is also a great philanthropist, and in a recent broadcast to United States Forces he gave his own design for living. We think it is so beautiful a concept of the things which matter that we give it in full.*

I BELIEVE in the dignity of labour, whether with head or hand; that the world owes no man a living, but that it owes every man an opportunity to make a living.

I believe in the supreme worth of the individual, and in his right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I believe that truth and justice are fundamental to an enduring social order.

I believe in the sacredness of a promise, that a man's word should be as good as his bond; that character—not wealth or power or position—is of supreme worth.

I believe that every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity an obligation; every possession a duty.

I believe that the law was made for man and not man for the law; that government is the

servant of the people and not their master.

I believe that thrift is essential to well-ordered living and that economy is a prime requisite of a sound financial structure, whether in government, business, or personal affairs.

I believe that the rendering of useful service is the common duty of mankind, and that only in the purifying fire of sacrifice is the dross of selfishness consumed and the greatness of the human soul set free.

I believe in an all-wise and all-loving God, named by whatever name, and that the individual's highest fulfilment, greatest happiness, and widest usefulness are to be found in living in harmony with His will.

I believe that love is the greatest thing in the world; that it alone can overcome hate; that right can and will triumph over might.

## THE SHOW GOES ON

IN the world of the theatre it is a maxim that in spite of all difficulties the show must go on. In France today even the famous State theatre, the Comédie Française, is suffering from a severe shortage of essential materials, and the actors and actresses are adorned with odd bits and pieces left in the theatre by the audience. The wardrobe mistress says that small things

such as belt buckles or feathers were seized as trimmings. Even the tapestries from the walls have been used to make clothes for the players. Ruffs are made with discarded shirts and gloves are made from old stockings.

Scenery also presents a major problem. Each night the design on the back cloth has to be rubbed out and a new one painted on for the following night.

## BEDTIME CORNER

### The Silver Song

JEANNIE was walking to school along a quiet country lane, singing a new song she'd learned the day before, when suddenly she heard a queer, squeaky, excited voice.

"Goody, goody!"

And there, in the hedge, was one of the Little People, a strange old lady in a tall hat, seated astride a twig.

She was a rather ugly old lady, and Jeannie was very frightened. Her pretty song died away on her lips.

"Go on singing!" squeaked the fairy. But poor Jeannie could not.

Down hopped the fairy into the road, and there she stood, and there she stamped her foot.

"Go on singing, I tell you!" But Jeannie could not, for she was terrified of this strange creature in this lonely spot.

And then suddenly the fairy clutched at her heart and sank to the ground, crying, "Oh, I'm in such pain, child! Such pain!"

At once kind little Jeannie was all sympathy. Forgetting her fright, she bent down and took the old woman up with gentle hands.

"What's the matter, little

lady?" she inquired tenderly.

"You're breaking my heart, child!" sobbed the fairy. "You've stopped your song, and I do so love a song from a human child. Oh, oh!"

What could Jeannie do but sing again? At her first notes



a wonderful smile broke over the face of the little old lady, making it quite beautiful.

She listened intently, and when the song was ended she clapped her hands.

"Thank you, child—thank you!" she cried. "I'm quite better now, and you shall have your reward. Silver for your song. Look, child!"

As she spoke she vanished.

And there on the road, on the spot where the fairy had stood, was a bright new half-crown!

## A BOOK OF LIFE

*The Story of Living Things.*  
By Eileen Mayo (Waverley Book Co. £2).

THERE have been few books published during the war more fascinating than this well-told story of the evolution of living things from the amoeba to man.

Miss Eileen Mayo set herself the task of describing the many-branched tree of life in simple language and of illustrating it with a thousand drawings in full colour. The printers have done their part admirably so that here is a book which will easily hold its own on our shelves with those of the past and those that are to come. It is a book, however, which will never remain for long on a shelf, for it is a complete work of reference to animal life, much plant life, and to the uses man, at the top of the tree, has made of both.

On the whole Nature has been very lavish with her paintbox, civilised man contributing the greys, and in Eileen Mayo the coloured pageant of living creatures has found a patient and far-ranging interpreter, whose work will delight and instruct every boy and girl into whose lucky hands this handsome volume may be placed. The titles to the pictures alone are an education, and as Dr Julian Huxley says in his introduction, present "great territories of experience."

## A Windfall For the Red Cross

FEW book thieves can have been busier than one who was recently caught by Scotland Yard with 7000 stolen books in his home.

Some were valuable, their variety was great, and in due course nearly half of them were claimed. But for 4000 of them no substantiated claims were put in, despite careful inquiries.

What was to be done with these "lost" books? The detective-inspector who conducted the case had the right idea. Why not offer them to the Red Cross and St John for their comforts collection? So, official permission having been obtained, this was done, and of course the offer was joyfully accepted. The comforts fund received a bookish surprise packet as choice as it was unexpected, one of the finest gifts that has come their way since the war began.

## The Old Soldier

LANCE-CORPORAL SILAS SMALE has decided to retire from the Canadian Army. He feels he needs a rest, and as he is 73 we can perhaps understand his viewpoint.

It was in 1889 that "Dad" Smale, as he is affectionately known, first joined the Army. It was the British Army, and he stayed with it until he was pensioned off in 1912. Then he went to Canada and joined up again, serving another 20 years until his discharge in 1933.

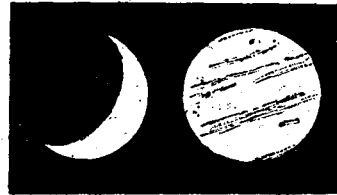
Once a soldier, always a soldier! When the present war broke out Dad Smale enlisted again, and for the last five years has been an orderly at Halifax, Nova Scotia. This time, he says, his retirement is final, and we can all wish him luck and a long Old Soldierhood!

## Venus at Her Greatest Brilliance

VENUS, the splendid Evening Star that has adorned the southwest sky after sunset for several months past, is now near her greatest brilliance, which will be reached by Saturday, March 10, writes the C N Astronomer.

Venus is very well placed for observation on this occasion, partly because the tilt of its orbit is near to its highest point relative to the Earth, and so Venus appears exceptionally far above the ecliptic or path of the Sun. She therefore is higher above the horizon and remains visible for a longer time after the Sun has set. So now Venus does not set until about 11 p.m., and is therefore visible for nearly four hours after sunset.

Venus is now in the constellation of Aries, the Ram, whose two



The present appearance of Venus compared with Jupiter

chief stars, Hamel and Beta in Aries, may be seen above the planet and almost in line, as soon as twilight vanishes. The motion of Venus during the next two weeks, relative to these stars, will be of interest to note; for she is travelling quickly in her approach towards the Earth. This will continue until April 15, when Venus will pass between our world and the Sun, but at a higher altitude, and at a distance from the Earth of only 26,000,000 miles. She will then be much the nearest celestial body to the Earth, except of course the Moon. At present Venus is about 42,000,000 miles away, and from this it can be seen how much nearer she will come each day during the next month. Her greater speed of 22 miles a second, compared with the Earth's 18½ miles, accounts for this.

So Venus will not be present for long in our evening sky; by the end of March she will be much lower and nearer to the horizon, setting much earlier and appearing less brilliant. This is because she is coming more and more between us and the Sun, and so we gradually see less of her sunlit hemisphere. Just now

Venus appears as shown in the accompanying picture, but the crescent form gradually narrows like that of the waning Moon, until by April 1 the crescent will be reduced to only half the width of that in the picture, although the diameter between the cusps will have considerably increased owing to Venus having come nearer. Thus the crescent continues to become narrower until it vanishes by April 15, when Venus passes apparently above the Sun from left to right, to become visible later on as a "morning star." It will therefore be during the first week in April that we shall get our last peep at Venus as an "evening star" during this year, as she will appear too near to the Sun in the evening twilight.

Jupiter, the great planetary rival of Venus as regards brilliance, is now also adorning the evening sky, but in the south-east, where he will rise higher and higher as he comes nearer to the Earth. Jupiter now rises about 7 p.m., and by 9 o'clock will be in the south-east at approximately the same altitude as Venus, which is in the south-west; thus a comparison of brilliance may be made in which Venus proves to be much the brighter.

In the south, however, nearly midway between Venus and Jupiter and at almost the same altitude at that time of the evening, there will be seen a third brilliant object. This is Sirius, and it must not be mistaken for either of the others. It may be noticed how much Sirius scintillates or twinkles; this is because it is a star and not a planet. Unlike Sirius, Venus and Jupiter present discs which are measurable when observed telescopically. The picture shows the present appearance of these discs of the crescent Venus and Jupiter, together with their relative apparent sizes. It will be seen that Jupiter appears but little larger than Venus in diameter, whereas he is actually over 11 times larger; but then he is ten times farther away, at a distance of 418,000,000 miles at the present time.

G. F. M.

## MR DOUBLEDAY'S GREAT DAY

MOST people have probably never heard of Mr Doubleday. Yet something happened on a February day one hundred years ago, that gave him a place in history.

Nearly 300 years before, a wonderful vase was found in the tomb of a Roman Emperor near Italy's capital.

Made perhaps in the time of St Paul, this rare and lovely treasure with the ancient Greek story of Thetis and Peleus portrayed in white on a background of delicate blue, was long preserved in the Barberini Palace in Rome. Eventually it passed into the possession of the Dukes of Portland, and in 1810 was placed in the British Museum.

There the treasure, now widely known as the Portland Vase, remained on view to admiring eyes,

safe and sound until that February afternoon in 1845 when a young madman picked up a piece of rock and shattered the glass case and the vase within it.

Of course, he was arrested and tried, but in those days all the law could do was to fine him £3 for breaking the glass case!

Meanwhile, the Portland Vase lay in nearly 150 pieces.

Now Mr Doubleday came into the picture. To this craftsman was given the task of piecing together the shattered fragments. He was, in fact, invited to perform a miracle, and when he had finished his task the damage was almost undetectable.

So Mr Doubleday had his great day, and for lovers of the beautiful that February day was not the tragic occasion it might well have been.



# NEW LIGHT ON THE LAND BILL

THE Requisitioned Land and Works Bill, a critical reference to which appeared in the C N of February 3, has had its second reading in the House of Commons, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir John Anderson, has promised certain concessions to public feeling of resentment at some of its terms.

This not altogether lucid Bill deals with the disposal, after the war, of all land requisitioned for war purposes such as defence works, factories, airfields, camps, hostels, and so forth. These works, it was reported, had cost the taxpayers about £700,000,000, of which £60,000,000 was for factories.

Sir John Anderson pointed out that, if the Bill had not been brought forward, all the requisitioned land, with the buildings and works on it, would have to be handed back to its owners, with compensation for damage, and the Government would, except in regard to defence works, have no right to keep or, if they thought fit, to dispose of any of the works provided at the taxpayers' expense. Thus the greater part of the value of the various works would go into the pockets of the owners of the land.

The sorting out of this problem is to be undertaken by a Commission, who will hear objections but whose decisions will be final, except where Government policy is involved or where the Government propose to use the works or the land, or both, for public purposes, or to control the use of them in the public interest. An instance of this would be an air-

field required for civil aviation.

With regard to the preservation of amenities such as public commons and open spaces, Sir John Anderson admitted that the Bill was, perhaps, not specific enough, and he thought it should be improved.

The Chancellor gave an assurance that, in the matter of all requisitioned land and works erected upon it, there would be the fullest consultation with the Ministers of Agriculture and Town and Country Planning.

In the debate the general opinion was that the main principles of the Bill were sound and necessary. It was made clear by many speakers, however, that finance must not be put above other considerations. One member spoke of the danger of land, perhaps in the finest wheat-growing country, being distributed "in a sort of national jumble sale," instead of being given back to agriculture.

The Bill will certainly undergo some changes before it becomes law. Especially must M P's see to it that the people's rights of free access to commons and open spaces, that farmers' lands, and other land which should be preserved for the people's benefit, are not sacrificed. Subject to this, the need for regulating and controlling this mighty land deal is clearly necessary.

## Safeguarding Freedom's Future

THE United States has established a permanent research board of scientists who will study the future development of methods of warfare and devise ways of countering them. The USA is resolved not to be taken by surprise by any "secret weapons" in the years to come. The first steps towards setting up a similar scientific defence committee here have also been taken.

The C N has never ceased to urge that freedom from war can only come through organised international co-operation, but it is obvious that until such a world order is established it is vital for freedom-loving nations to be on their guard against possible new forms of surprise attack.

Even the established world order will require the support, at first, of some sort of world military or police force ready to prevent the flouting of its authority by an aggressor; such a force, too,

## For the Better Days

SOMEWHERE in India, where you would least expect to find it, is a complete West African village. The inhabitants are African soldiers of the Royal West African Frontier Force who are recovering from wounds received during their campaigning in Burma. These convalescents live in houses built of mud-bricks, like their own homes in West Africa. They have their own canteen and shops, and run their own entertainments. They amuse themselves with games like draughts, darts, snakes and ladders, and West African ayo. Then there are flutes, bugles, drums, and cymbals to be played; the men have already formed a band of 24 instruments whose playing is very popular in the YMCA and the neighbouring hospitals.

### Home News

One soldier, in private life a schoolmaster in Nigeria, is running an Information Room, with the latest newspapers, especially those giving home news of British West Africa. Three other African schoolteachers are organising open debates on subjects like West Africa's postwar problems.

The soldiers are as keen on these discussions as on their lighter amusements because they are deeply interested in the solution of the difficult problems which face their home folk. When they have helped Britain to beat the Japanese in the Far East, these men will go home determined to help Britain to defeat other enemies such as disease, poverty, and ignorance among their own people.

would have to be equipped against any new weapon which evil men might devise in the future.

Indeed, in this war the world owes its freedom in part to the work of those scientists familiarly known as the "backroom boys," the experts who have discovered the means of countering the enemy's new weapons. For example, British scientists developed radiolocation which has saved thousands of lives, and our intrepid scientists found how to thwart Hitler's magnetic mines which otherwise would have paralysed our shipping in 1939 and brought us to starvation—and Hitler to victory.

The establishment of research committees of scientists to safeguard Freedom against new methods of destruction will, unhappily, be a necessity until the dawn of that blessed day when war, like slavery, becomes obsolete throughout the world.

## ARTIST AND TEACHER

WITH the death of Sir William Rothenstein at the age of 73, England has lost not only a great artist but a fine art teacher and writer. All artists have lost a friend.

One of Bradford's many distinguished sons, William Rothenstein was successful from his early years, many of which were spent as a shining light in the artist quarter of Paris; and his work, notably his portrait studies, is to be found in many of the world's famous art galleries and museums.

During the last war he served as an official artist with the British Army; and from the outbreak of this war as unofficial artist attached to the R A F he again worked without sparing himself until his health gave way.

Sir William Rothenstein will be remembered above all for his work as Principal of the Royal College of Art at South Kensington from 1920 to 1935. In those great years of teaching he reached the pinnacle of his distinguished career.

## WAR COMES TO SAXONY

THE Russian armies continue their westward march, unfailingly, relentlessly, punctually; and the latest part of Germany to find itself deep in the throes of war is the ancient state of Saxony.

Saxony, slightly smaller than Yorkshire and neighboured by Bavaria, Prussia, and Czechoslovakia, is thickly populated, for it is one of the great industrial and mining areas of the Reich.

A kingdom until the Great War swept away its monarch, Saxony can trace its story back to the 8th century, when, a much bigger land, extending westward to the Rhine, its warring chieftains were subdued by the all-conquering Charlemagne. These Saxons are not to be confused with the Saxons who settled in our own country and who came primarily from the North Sea lands.

Involved in most of Europe's strife through the centuries, Saxony became smaller and smaller, was divided and subdivided, and an orderly, peaceful, and prosperous period for it began only in 1871, when it joined the German Empire. It was a comparatively short-lived period, as we know, for it could not have hitched its wagon to a more belligerent star.

Saxony's most important towns are Dresden, its capital, and Leipzig, third largest city of Germany and famous for its University, its book production, and its fairs.

Dresden, so long famous as a centre of culture, has of late been in the unenviable position of target for Allied bombers and strategic objective for advancing Russian armies.

Fifth city of the Reich, Dresden stands astride the River Elbe, amid lovely surroundings, 116 miles to the south-east of Berlin. An ancient city, it is, of

course, as a great industrial and railway centre that it has counted in this war. Nevertheless, Dresden's workaday activities, at least until Hitler's regime, were always secondary in importance to art and learning.

Dresden has been called the German Florence, and although the title is a flattering one, bestowed on it by an imaginative German, it certainly is an attractive city with a remarkable number of museums among its fine buildings, and is also famous for its schools.

Chief among its many museums is the one containing the gallery of pictures, formerly the royal gallery, with a world-famous collection of Old Masters, the most highly prized being Raphael's Sistine Madonna, which in the days of peace had a room to itself.

Porcelain is to most of us the first thing we associate with Dresden; but, strangely enough, the city has played but little part in its story. Certainly it was first made in 1709 in the royal factory at Dresden, but a year later this was transferred to Meissen, 15 miles away. However, Dresden china it is, and will remain; and to all who admire the delicately tinted ware—be it clock or vase, candelabra or ornamental group of Arcadian figures—it will ever symbolise Germany that was happy in pursuance of the arts of peace.

Saxony, and indeed all Germany, will have a chance of happiness again when every home has replaced its portrait of Hitler with a Dresden shepherdess.



"What is peacetime like?"

He has grown up in the biggest war of all time. He hasn't known what peace meant. It is going to be a strange and wonderful new world. Whatever happiness after the war has in store for him, one thing will count most — good health. During wartime you have found how 'Milk of Magnesia' has helped to keep him fit and free from minor stomach troubles.

In the happier days ahead, 'Milk of Magnesia' will, even as now, be your standby — never absent from the medicine cabinet.

**'MILK OF MAGNESIA'**

'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.



**CHECK THAT COUGH!**

Check that troublesome cough with a dose of soothing 'Pineate' Honey Cough-Syrup — end the misery and distress caused by choking coughing spasms and sore, inflamed throat and nasal passages. 'Pineate' Honey Cough-Syrup is delicious to take — only half a teaspoonful will give immediate relief. 1/9 per bottle, including Purchase Tax.

**'Pineate' HONEY COUGH-SYRUP**

If you're looking for the best — get

**Palm Toffee**



is always nice

**HOVIS**

BEST BAKERS BAKE IT  
Macclesfield



## Jacko Enjoys a Windy Day



ONE windy March morning Jacko and Chimp decided to go for a sail in their boat, but, much to their dismay, they found it had a large hole in the bottom. "Never mind, we'll fix two pairs of wheels on it and make it into a land yacht," cried Jacko. No sooner said than done; and before long the Jolly Jacko was sailing merrily across the common with Jacko and Chimp at the helm, and a breathless Bouncer well to the fore.

### EXAGGERATION

Two farmers were arguing about the respective merits of their livestock.

"Don't you ever feed your horse?" exclaimed one. "It is so thin you ought to tie a knot in its tail to keep it from slipping through its collar."

### WHAT AM I?

I show compassion. I am it, It absolutely, in my middle. Without my tail I am a hole. Now guess the answer to this riddle. *Answer next week*

### The Agouti

THIS native rodent of South America is about as big as a rabbit, is very quick and graceful and can swim well.

It comes out at night and by day hides in burrows among the rocks or in the hollow trunks of the trees in the forests.

It has five toes on each front foot, three on each hind foot, and scarcely any tail, and is covered in coarse rough hair which varies from brown to yellow.

It does a great deal of harm, especially to sugar plantations.

## The BRAN TUB

### FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

The Sleepy Dormouse. The Mouse, a plump ball of yellowish fur, was busily engaged with a Hazel nut.

Keeping very still, Don and Farmer Gray watched it for several minutes, before it saw them. The tiny creature instantly vanished into the leaves.

"It was a Dormouse," said the farmer. "Did you notice the thick fur on its tail? By late autumn dormice are plump almost to bursting point. They sleep through the winter, in a cosy prepared nest. During that time they are cold to the touch, and appear lifeless. They climb well, being equally at home in the bushes or on the ground."

### Unanswerable

"MORE anonymous letters!" exclaimed the famous actor in disgust.

Understudy (not to be outdone): "Treat them as I do. I never answer any of them."

### VERY TIRED

A LAZY old man of Calcutta Went to sleep on the top of a shutter.

When they shut up the shop He fell down with a flop And finished his nap in the gutter.

### What the Trees Give Us

THE Lime is used for carved work because the wood is light and soft, yet lasting.

The fibrous inner bark gives us bast for tying up plants and for mats.

The charcoal is often used for tooth-powder, and is also considered the best of any for the making of gunpowder.

### Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC programmes for Wednesday, February 28, to Tuesday, March 6.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20. A programme by Young Artists from the North of England, including Edwin Ashworth, piano; Alan Chappell, cornet; Margery Howarth, singer; Cynthia Jowitt, clarinet; John Davies, violin; Jean Leaver, singer, and Joyce Palin, piano. 5.55 Prayers.

THURSDAY, 5.30 A Saint's Day programme by Nan Davies, produced by Lorraine Jameson.

FRIDAY, 5.20 Worzel Gummidge and Saucy Nancy, by Barbara Euphan Todd, adapted by Geoffrey Dearmer. Part 3—The Island.

SATURDAY, 5.20 The Beetle who wanted Gold Shoes, a Hans Andersen tale, adapted by Rosalie Williams. 5.45 More Puzzles, Questions, and Catches by P. Caton Baddeley.

SUNDAY, 5.20 The Man who Stood and Stared, a portrait of W. H. Davies, by Tudor Watkins. Produced by Lorraine Jameson.

MONDAY, 5.20 Mary Plain's Big Adventure, a new serial about the famous bear, by Gwynedd, told by Mac, followed by Magic in Music, by Helen Henschel, and the Zoo Man.

TUESDAY, 5.30 Down at the Mains, by R. Gordon McCallum.

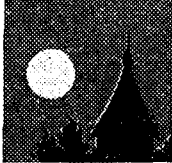
### Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 This "king" is black. 4 Hard-cased fruits. 7 Not off. 8 A god of Northern mythology. 10 Optic globe. 12 A kind of couch. 14 Grief. 15 A name for the Sun. 16 Distant in reverse denotes a gallant company. 17 Everyone. 18 The great artery. 20 To rotate. 22 One of North America's Great Lakes. 23 That is (abbr.). 24 The slope of a mountain. 25 A fissure.

Reading Down. 1 Frigid. 2 Above and touching. 3 True in allegiance. 4 The point of a pen. 5 Not knowing. 6 Single. 9 A wild creature's lair. 10 Developed. 11 The space between ceiling and roof. 13 Land surrounded by water. 16 A senior scout. 17 Painting, sculpture, and music. 18 Baba's first name. 19 To encourage by approval. 21 A mineral containing metal. 23 This introduces a conditional sentence. *Answer next week*

### Other Worlds

IN the morning Jupiter is in the south-west. In the evening Venus is in the south-west.



Uranus and Saturn are in the south, and Jupiter is in the south-east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 8.30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27.

### CLOCK CLEANING

Now that it is almost impossible to get a clock repaired, if yours should stop, try this dodge:

Soak a piece of cottonwool in paraffin and put it in the clock case just under the works.

The oil will collect the dirt from the works, and if it has stopped just because it was clogged with dust, you will find that in a day or two the clock will go again.

### THE SECRET CODE

X X X X X X X X X X  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

THESE crosses represent two words, one of seven letters and the other of three; both are things used for school.

All the letters are numbered, and the numbers have been substituted for letters in this code message:

23 SCHOOL 356 TEACHER WILL NOT 35890 356 783376 PUPIL WHO 456231 81 356 BEST.

Find the two words by solving the code message. *Answer next week*

### Muddled

THE lesson was on physical geography, the subject, the world. "Now, Tommy, can you tell me what land and water make?" said the master to a small boy whom, he suspected, had not been paying much attention.

"Please, sir, mud!"

*Famous for writing!*

The GILLOTT range of writing pens is the finest in the world. Unequalled for variety of quality. As present supplies may be limited, but the GILLOTT tradition of excellence persists.

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**ALWAYS REMEMBERING**

that the Christian life embraces the whole life, the East End Mission for sixty years has been helping men, women and children to achieve their full potentialities. Its work among the poor of Stepney, from cradle to old age, is greatly in need of additional support. Do please help.

The REV. RONALD F. W. BOLLOM, Supt., THE EAST END MISSION (Founded 1885), Bromley Street, Commercial Road, Stepney, E.1.

Here is **YOUR chance to help!**

**JOIN the Children's League of Pity—the Junior Branch of the NATIONAL SOCIETY for the PREVENTION OF CRUELTY to CHILDREN (President: H.R.H. Princess Elizabeth)—which is stopping ignorant and cruel parents from neglecting and ill-treating children.**

#### Its objects are:

To give younger people an opportunity of helping unfortunate children throughout the land.

To do this by giving up something for others and not by collecting money by canvassing. Membership of the League gives a sound sense of responsibility and is an education in good citizenship.

Every member who gives 10/- is awarded this splendid badge. It is a great privilege to wear it and to make other children happy.

Why not write to the Secretary for full details?



**THE CHILDREN'S LEAGUE of PITY**

17, VICTORY HOUSE, LEICESTER SQUARE, LONDON, W.C.2.

May we send a speaker to your school to tell you how our inspectors help these less fortunate children?

**You like Biscuits**

You'd be an exception if you didn't! For all over the world British Biscuits are a famous dainty. But biscuits are not only nice, they're good, they're nourishing and sustaining. They create energy and stamina. They help you carry on your work without tiring.

In fact, from every point of view it's true to say that

**they like you!**

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